

# Orange and Blue

(ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, AUBURN)

Vol. XV

Auburn, Ala., March 31, 1909

No. 11

Published by a Board of Editors from the Senior and Junior Classes.  
Devoted to the General Interests of the College

Entered at the Post Office at Auburn, Ala., as second class mail matter, in accordance with Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates, \$1.00 Per Year.

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Business communications should be sent to the Business Manager.

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Football—J. T. McLure, Captain; C. A. Wilmore, Manager.

Websterian Literary Society—W. M. Howell President. Meeting every Saturday night at eight o'clock in Websterian Hall.

Wirt Literary Society—S. H. Richardson, president. Meeting every Saturday night at seven o'clock in Wirt Hall.

Senior Class—B. E. Harris, president; T. C. Mitchell, vice-president; L. H. Hubbard, secretary; A. H. Skinner, treasurer; S. H. Richardson, historian; Miss Hattie Finley, poet; prophet and orator to be selected.

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L. W. SHOOK.....-----	Assistant Editors
E. E. BINFORD.....-----	

## *INTRODUCTION.*

It is through the generosity of the Orange and Blue Board that the Agricultural students are permitted to edit this Agricultural Issue. Much credit is also due to the college, to the different members of the Agricultural faculty, and to the Agricultural students themselves for making it possible, in a financial way, to get out this edition.

In this issue we hope to be able to point out the progress that this institution is making in futhering Agricultural education, both as to increasing the facilities for teaching Agriculture, and as to increasing the number of students taking the Agricultural course.

The President and the heads of the departments kindly consented to help us accomplish our aim by each writing a short article on what they and their respective departments are doing for agricultural education in this state.

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## WHAT "AUBURN" IS DOING FOR AGRICULTURE.

BY C. C. THACH.

One of the fundamental purposes of the Polytechnic Institute is the teaching of agriculture and the sciences related thereto, with the double aim, first of imparting a solid genuine education to the young men who attend the college, and, second, of contributing practically to the betterment and uplift of the great profession whereby men are enabled to make their livelihood from the soil.

At the founding of the college in 1872 the chair of agriculture was established and also a chair including instruction in botany and chemistry.

At present in the agricultural work of the institution there are seven distinct departments including a corps of eight full professors and twelve assistant professors, instructors, and assistants, a total of twenty men.

A marked growth in the attendance and in the interest in these courses has characterized the last two years.

There is in process of erection a handsome and commodious building for the departments of (1) Agriculture, (2) Horticulture, (3) Botany, (4) Entomology, and (5) Animal industry, together with a separate set of buildings for practical work in each of these departments. It is the general opinion that there is no superior, if equal, group of buildings for agricultural purposes in the South.

The different courses presented cover all the phases of agricultural education and offer to the students of Alabama and the South full opportunity for the best scientific training in these various scientific departments.



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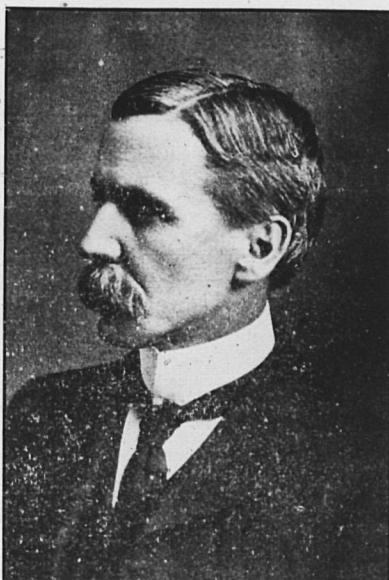
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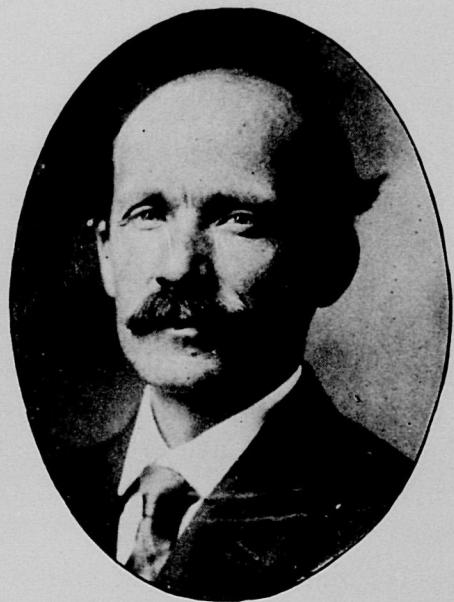
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The investigations conducted on behalf of the farmers of the South embrace a wide range, including the improvement, by breeding, of cotton, corn, oats, and other crops; the best methods of growing and fertilizing the principal field and forage crops; and methods of soil improvement.

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#### ANIMAL INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

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DAN T. GRAY, *Professor of Animal Industry*

W. F. WARD, *Scientific Assistant In Beef*

J. W. RIDGEWAY, *Assistant in Animal Industry.*

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The men who work in this department have but one aim before them, and that aim is to be of some benefit to the farmers of Alabama. To accomplish this purpose the efforts have been directed along two general lines—the college, or teaching, and the experimental work. With the beginning of next year the college work can be carried forward with more satisfaction than in the past, as the new laboratories will be ready to use. In all there are thirteen different courses in animal industry offered to the students, the work beginning the third term of the first year.

There is given an opportunity to specialize in this department in the senior year.

The experimental work done in the department affords the staff material upon which to base the teaching work, and it is through the experimental side of the efforts that the large body of farmers are reached. Experimentation, so far, has been with swine, sheep and beef cattle. The advanced students are made familiar with

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W. F. TURNER, B. Sc., *Assistant in Entomology.*

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DR. B. B. ROSS, Prof. Chemistry and State Chemist.

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In the work in General Chemistry especial stress is laid upon those features of the subject which relates to agriculture and in the lectures and class work in Agricultural Chemistry, particular attention is given to the study of the chemical composition of soils and fertilizers and to questions relating to the nutrition of plants and animals, while due consideration is also given subjects illustrating other points of contact between chemistry and agriculture.

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The facilities for work will be in a high degree exceptional. For physiological work on living plants there is an 80 by 23 foot glass house and, attached to it, a laboratory of 25 feet square with a photographic dark room, and store rooms. In the Comer Agricultural Hall a suite of rooms on the third floor, including a large lecture room, general laboratory, seminar and library room, special research laboratory, instructor's room, dark and culture rooms, professor's laboratory and office and an ample herbarium, will give splendid floor space. The general equipment, which is being supplemented at the present time, is sufficient for many kinds of undergraduate and graduate work.

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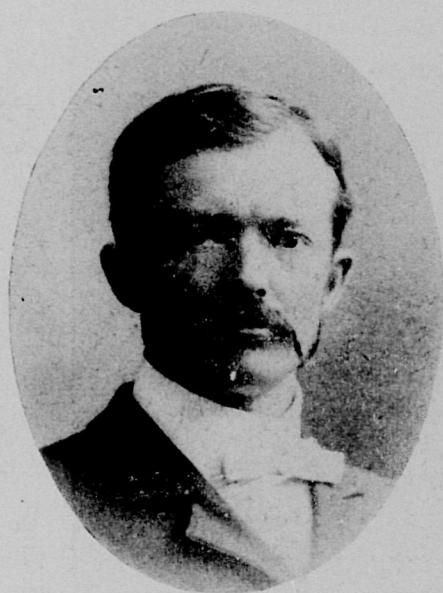
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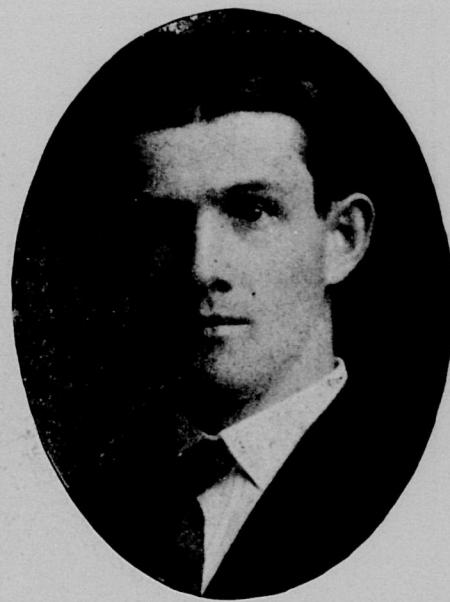
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BY C. A. CARY.



DR. C. A. CARY, Prof. Vet.

Science.



I. S. McADORY, Instructor in

Vet. Science.

Some knowledge of veterinary science is of great value to every farmer. Therefore, any live course in agriculture should have in it some instruction in exterior anatomy; work in some parts of descriptive anatomy; some lessons on lamenesses, on the recognition of the more common diseases of farm animals, and along lines of hygiene, sanitation, and methods of preventing diseases. Up to this year the agricultural course was so arranged as to require all agricultural students to take up the above named lines in veterinary science. But the new arrangement requires only one-half as much as formerly, and gives the students in animal husbandry a chance to elect and take more than was previously required. The Saturday free clinic of the regular three-year course in veterinary medicine and surgery is open to the agricultural students for one or two years. This clinic gives the student opportunity to obtain practical instruction by seeing and taking part in the inspection, diagnosis, and treatment of many diseased animals. Students who have completed the four years' agricultural course and have taken all the special work in veterinary medicine and surgery can finish the regular three-year course in veterinary medicine and surgery in two years.

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DR. C. A. CARY, Prof. Vet.

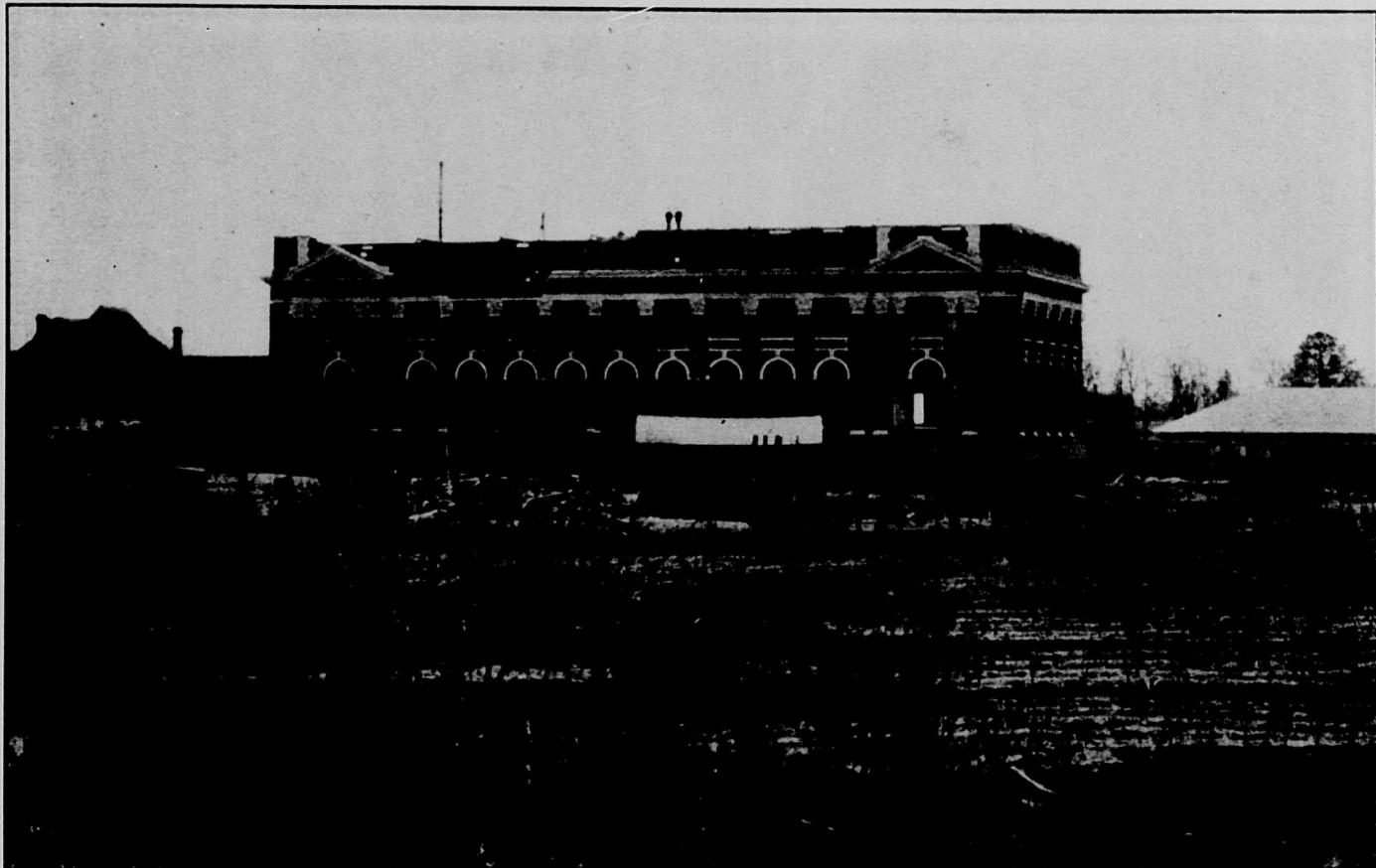
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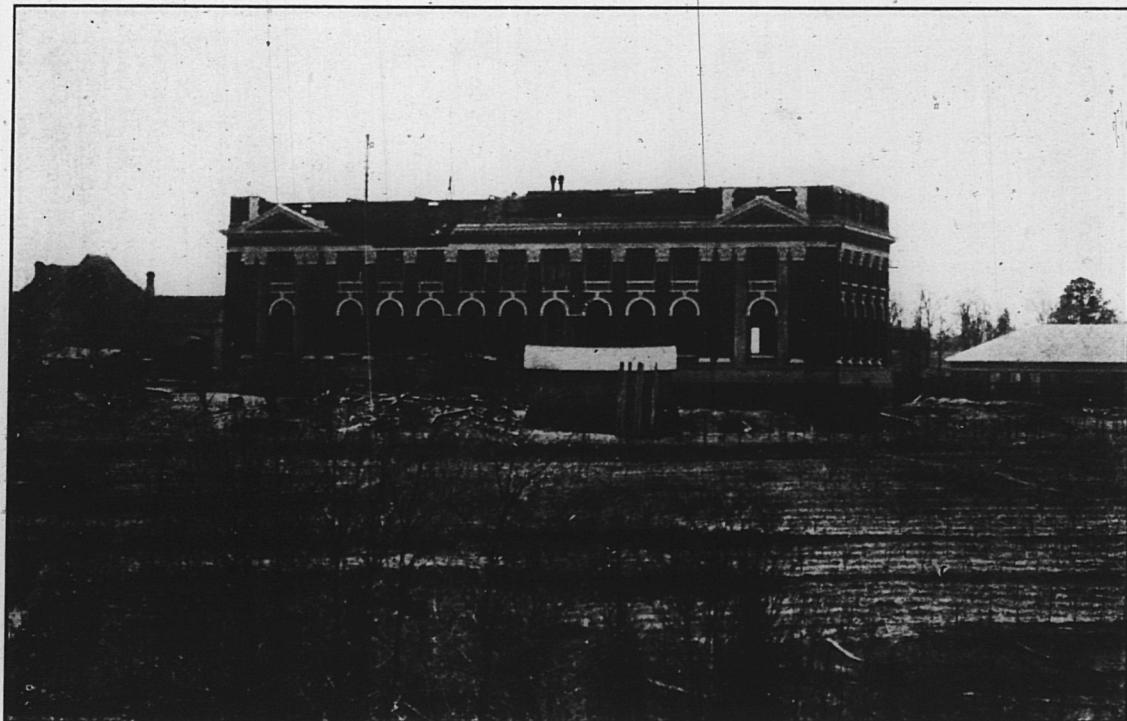
I. S. McADORY, Instructor in

Vet. Science.

Some knowledge of veterinary science is of great value to every farmer. Therefore, any live course in agriculture should have in it some instruction in exterior anatomy; work in some parts of descriptive anatomy; some lessons on lamenesses, on the recognition of the more common diseases of farm animals, and along lines of hygiene, sanitation, and methods of preventing diseases. Up to this year the agricultural course was so arranged as to require all agricultural students to take up the above named lines in veterinary science. But the new arrangement requires only one-half as much as formerly, and gives the students in animal husbandry a chance to elect and take more than was previously required. The Saturday free clinic of the regular three-year course in veterinary medicine and surgery is open to the agricultural students for one or two years. This clinic gives the student opportunity to obtain practical instruction by seeing and taking part in the inspection, diagnosis, and treatment of many diseased animals. Students who have completed the four years' agricultural course and have taken all the special work in veterinary medicine and surgery can finish the regular three-year course in veterinary medicine and surgery in two years.



New Agricultural Buildings.



New Agricultural Buildings.

## THE NEW AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.

One of the first things that catches the eye of a person going out Main Street is the new Agricultural building, which is located on the small hill, in the midst of the Horticultural grounds. Although it ranks second in size, it is by far the handsomest of the larger buildings and the agricultural departments are to be congratulated on their new home.

The building will be 180x70 feet in size, and will be three stories high. In front the building will have three large doors and eight large wide windows. The windows are separated from each other by pilasters, which reach from the porch floor to the main cornice above the third floor. These pilasters are crowned with very imposing capitals and it was here that the architect showed his skillful originality in giving expression to the building. These capitals follow the classic Corinthian in style, and are richly decorated with ears of corn, bolls of cotton, fruit, and other articles which happily express the purpose for which the building was intended.

The basement is under the western end of the building only and is divided into three rooms; a large room for judging live stock, a room for farm machinery, and a room for the heating apparatus, etc.

The first floor will be composed of three office rooms a bulletin room, and a handsome auditorium that will seat about two hundred and fifty people. There will also be two class rooms on the first floor which will be used by the Agronomy department under Professor Duggar.

The second floor will be used by the Horticultural, Entomology and Agronomy departments and each will have a class room and a laboratory on this floor. The Horticultural laboratory will be well equipped and will be large enough for twenty five students at one time.

The Botany department will occupy nearly all of the third floor and will have two large and well equipped laboratories and a large class room, as well as an office for the Professor of Botany. There will also be a laboratory on the third floor for use in soil work. This work is carried on in the laboratories of Agronomy where the students will be taught the different kinds of soils. This work will be of great benefit to all who expect to

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Students' Agricultural Club.



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go into the soil survey work that is being carried on in every state in the Union.

Back of the western end of the agricultural building will be a small building that will be devoted to the Animal Industry department. It will contain four large rooms and three small ones. There will be a separator room, a churn room, a room for dairy research work, and an experiment laboratory. The smaller rooms will be used for the following purposes: a boiler room, a wash room; and a room for keeping the milk and butter.

Just east of the dairy building will be three large greenhouses, two of which will be 84x20 feet, and the third, which will be used by the Entomology Department, will be 45x16 feet in size. The two large greenhouses are separate, and will be used by the Horticultural and Botany departments. In the rear of the Horticultural greenhouse will be a small lecture room 25x20, which will be used in conjunction with the Horticultural laboratory that is located in part of the greenhouse.

C. D. ALLIS, JR., '99

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#### THE WORK OF THE STUDENT AGRICULTURE CLUB.

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The 1907-8 session opened with a great increase in the number of Agricultural students. The Senior and Junior classes in Agriculture were the largest in the history of the college, and were composed of good, hard working students. The faculty and students alike were aware of the great advancement in the Agricultural course and alike were doing all in their power to aid its progress. With this condition of affairs it is not strange that someone conceived the idea of organizing an Agricultural Club. This idea met the hearty approval of all, and on Nov. 23, 1907, was organized the first Agricultural Club in the State of Alabama.

All students taking Agriculture or intending to take it are eligible for membership, and all members of the Agricultural Faculty are honorary members.

The object of this organization is to benefit the students in the Agricultural course and to create a greater interest in Agriculture among the students of all classes. The ways in which the members are benefitted may be divided into three classes: First, the training received at all literary societies. The members become familiar with Parliamentary Rules and receive val-

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able training by speaking before an audience. Much has been said of the inestimable value of such training to any man, and it is every bit true. Secondly, the facts and training received by research work. When a member is given a subject to prepare, he goes to the library and reads up all the literature he can find on the subject. In this way he not only learns important facts bearing directly on his life work, but becomes acquainted with scientific terms, the best works, and how and where to find them. Thirdly, the social advantages. At the Club, students from different parts of the State and of different classes, meet one another, and great friendships often spring up. One of the greatest advantages of college life lies in the life long friendships that are formed, and no other organization in college will offer more chances for such friendships than the club of which we speak.

The Agricultural Club is the center of all business activities in the course. Any plans that may be suggested for the advancement of the Agricultural course are set before the Club to be approved or rejected. Had there not been such a medium, this special issue of the Orange and Blue would have been impossible. The Club, it may be said, has gotten out this issue, for the program committee are the editors and the club saw to it that the required funds were raised.

While our Club has the distinction of being the first organization of its kind in the State, it can no longer boast of being the only one. The District Agricultural Schools have taken up the movement and now three out of the nine have their Agricultural Clubs. This gives our Club a great field for work. These schools have always sent to Auburn a very superior class of students, and no one thing would do more for Auburn than an increase in the percentage of such students here. It is the duty of our Club to work to this end.

The fact we have had no suitable club room has held the club back some, but this difficulty will be overcome next year, for a nice club room is being built in the new Agricultural Building. The members will use this as a reading and study room.

By way of conclusion it may be said that we request all students taking Agriculture to join the club and do good conscientious work, not only for the good they will receive, but also for the good they will do the course.

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**THE PLACE OF COTTON IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH.**

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The cotton plant is a native of both hemispheres, and has been grown to a limited extent for ages. We know but little of the early history of cotton in the United States, but even before the Revolution we find it grown in small quantities in the Southern colonies. The one great drawback to its production on a large scale was the difficulty in separating the lint from the seed. But American genius was destined to solve even this difficult problem. In 1793 Eli Whitney invented the saw gin, which made possible the phenomenal development of the cotton industry in the South. In a single decade production leaped from 4,000 to 80,000 bales annually. In a century it had reached the enormous total of 10,000,000 bales annually, and in 1908 the crop was nearly 13,000,000 bales. Thus cotton became the chief agricultural product of the entire South and has continued to be so up to the present time.

It was cotton that helped the South to her feet again after the devastation of the war between the states, but in doing this it developed the ruinous tenant system of farming. The country people were almost entirely without means, and cotton was the only crop on which the bankers or merchants would advance them money or supplies. It is a fact worthy of more than passing note, however, that during the past decade many tenant farmers have gotten out from under the lien system, and each year their number is increasing. While cotton is still their principal crop, they are today more nearly on an independent basis than at any time since the war. Thus they ought to be in condition to abandon their one-crop system and go into diversified farming. Let us hope that the day is not far distant when our farmers will cease to "have their corn cribs and smoke houses in the North and West" and will begin to "live at home."

Before we can do this, however, we must discontinue our one-crop system of farming. Our once fertile fields are now well nigh exhausted, due to the continuous raising of cotton alone, and from sheer necessity we *must* change our system of farming. We must introduce more and better live stock into our agriculture, and we must diversify and rotate our crops if we make permanent progress. Cotton has indeed been King in the South,

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but it has ruled us with a despotic hand. As a result, the cotton farmer, who produces a commodity without which civilization could not advance, is today in a state of poverty and is the poorest paid toiler in the United States.

There is perhaps not a section in America where live stock can be grown more cheaply than in the Southern States, and with our great diversity of soil and climate there is no reason why we should not raise enough foodstuffs, and to spare, for both man and beast. There are people who claim that if we practice diversified farming we will not have enough land left for our cotton and that it will mean a great falling off in the cotton crop, but their claims are not substantiated by the facts of the case. Decreasing our cotton acreage should not lessen the total production, as we should obtain much larger yields per acre through more intelligent and intensive culture. There are intelligent farmers who get yields of 2 to 2 1-2 bales per acre on large tracts of land, and others can do as well. Texas alone could produce annually a crop equal to that of the whole United States last year. It has been estimated that, when the demand justifies it, the South can produce as much as 50,000,000 bales of cotton annually *without trenching on the area necessary for diversified agriculture*, and that by intensive farming it may some day be possible even to double this.

But much as cotton means to the world and much as it means to America, it means infinitely more to the South. Here "cotton is the lifeblood of commerce, its condition the thermometer of trade." It is the only crop on which we have a monopoly, and we should do all in our power to put the cotton industry on a better basis. We raise 75 per cent of the world's supply of cotton, and by raising our own supplies and having cotton as a money crop, our section would become the richest in America in an amazingly short time. The South clothes the world and there is no reason why her people should any longer remain poor. When we realize that we must introduce more live stock into our agriculture and diversify our crops, then will we be started on the highroad to unlimited prosperity.

It is not along agricultural lines alone, however that cotton is of importance to the South, but along industrial lines as well. The fact that we have in the past sold chiefly the raw material, and thus failed to secure the tremendous profits made in work-

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ing it up into the finished products, is a reflection upon our business enterprise. We sometimes hear people boast of cotton having become our most important export, but they seem to forget that it is a raw material, and that we *import* \$2.00 worth of cotton goods for every \$1.00 worth we export; and in industrial lines the profits are made in working up the raw material into the finished product—not on the raw material. But we are glad to know that this condition of affairs is fast passing. Each year sees cotton factories established and more and more cotton manufactured into the finished product here at home. Industrially cotton is the world's King, but it sits on a British throne. The logical home for the dynasty of cotton, however, is in the land of Dixie in the centre of production, not in Liverpool and London, and the day is not far distant when the South will be the centre of manufacturing as well as cotton production.

The by-products of the cotton plant that were formerly regarded as worthless are now manufactured into a large and increasing number of products whose total value is equal to about one fourth of the cotton crop. The most important of these products are cotton seed oil, cotton seed meal, and cotton seed hulls. Cotton seed meal and hulls have become very important commercially as cattle foods. Cotton seed meal is also extensively used as a commercial fertilizer.

The development of the South when she realizes her heritage and opportunity in cotton will eclipse anything that the world has ever seen. The growing of the cotton will furnish a living to her agricultural population, and the cotton mills and oil mills and fertilizer plants will give employment to the townspeople. The social changes that prosperity will bring will remodel Southern life and the South will again become, as in the days before the war, a centre of education and refinement, and the greatest section of the greatest nation of the western world.

L. W. SHOOK, '09.

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Don't become puffed up just because your neighbor asks your advice. He may be just trying to find out how little you know.

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Students Taking Agriculture



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## HOW TO MAKE COUNTRY LIFE MORE ATTRACTIVE.

Never has a more serious problem presented itself to the American people than the rapid depopulation of our rural districts. This is especially true of that class who own or rent small farms in the Agricultural sections of the South and are situated away from the rail roads or a good system of public roads. The daily routine of hard manual labor grows tiresome and monotonous unless some decided change or proper recreation can be taken, and it is just here that we find the difficulty.

The commission on country life, recently appointed to investigate this matter, found that they were confronted by a question of more weight and difficulty than it at first appeared, and in making their report they concluded that by extension of the telephone lines, rural free delivery and establishment of a good public road system and parcels post, the condition of these people could be greatly improved.

The leading farmers can realize what a deplorable condition affairs are in at present. As the farmer is in a position to know what is needed to better his condition more than anyone else, it is left for him to decide whether he will take the initiative and be a guide to those weaker friends around him, or have some one to advise him.

With a good system of telephones and public roads, the country would open up, new farms would be cleared, and soon we could see, in all directions, large plantations numerously distributed throughout our Southland. With this new life and immigration to the country, the system of public schools would naturally become more perfectly and necessarily better equipped. After all, how can we appreciate nature and all of its beauties without education? These people should realize that education is the first essential, that without it we could not understand nature with all of its wonders, that country life, and especially farm life, which is most delightful in all of its phases, could never have the same meaning.

After the establishment of the parcels post, which is only a question of a few years, the farmer can have many of the conveniences which the people of the city enjoy, and live in perfect comfort. What would the parcels post mean to the farmer? It would mean that a farmer by telephoning to the near by town

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could order anything in the form of merchandise and have it promptly delivered to his door at the cost of only a nominal sum. It can be readily seen that, in an indirect way, even this alone would bring about a great change in making life in the country more attractive.

Joseph E. Wing, in a recent article, discussed these conditions and suggested that clubs be organized in each district. The purpose of these clubs should be for advancing and diffusing education among its members. There should be two standing committees, one on libraries and one on programs. The courses of study might be divided into sections as natural science, agriculture, horticulture, mental and moral philosophy, general literature, and history. Each member, if possible, should take two or more divisions and be prepared on his subjects for each monthly meeting. In these meetings, the members, discussing the various subjects, naturally become broad in their views. The object should be a social, educational, and moral uplift.

But, after all, we need home life, for it is in this haven of peace that our future, to a great extent, is moulded. A pleasant, happy home is worthy of thoughtful consideration. Failure in making early impressions of happy home life upon children, is generally the great mistake, and cause of so many young boys becoming disgusted with farm life, and in many instances, leaving the country for the mere existence of a city life.

E. LANE DAVIS, '10.

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#### *THE GROWTH OF THE AGRICULTURAL COURSE.*

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The founding of the old Agricultural and Mechanical College at Auburn in 1872, marked the beginning of agricultural education in Alabama. The beginning was made under the most adverse circumstances, as there was no laboratory equipment, but a small amount of information on agricultural subjects available to teach, and but few pupils to take the course. Almost every one, at that date, was inclined to look upon the teaching of agriculture with disfavor and distrust. The curriculum was very low, a number of the now important branches had not yet come into prominence, and those in prominence had not attained much in scientific lines. The only departments connected with

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the agricultural course were those of Botany, Chemistry and Agriculture.

The work accomplished was by mere force and determination to accomplish something on the part of the professors. The professors did not know much more than the students, and were thus forced to learn and do what they could by actual experiments. These years were important, as valuable information was collected in tabulated form and preserved for later use.

As time passed on, the agricultural course underwent a gradual change. At various times the chairs of Horticulture, Veterinary Science, Animal Industry, and Entomology, were added. The addition of these chairs greatly strengthened both the teaching and experimental staffs. As the chairs were added the curriculum was altered and raised to enable the best course possible to be given to the students. Up until last year, every student taking agriculture had to take the same course all the way through, but last year the agricultural faculty, deeming it necessary, altered the curriculum so as to enable each student to specialize in the branch or line of work he might choose in his senior year. This was a great improvement over the old curriculum, and promises to result in much good.

The number of students taking agriculture has been small, up until two years ago, when a decided increase was apparent. At present there are more students taking agriculture than there has been at any one time before. The attendance for next year bids fair to outstrip all records by far. This illustrates that a greater interest is being taken in agricultural work, and it looks at present as though the hopes of those who have labored so earnestly and faithfully for the cause of agricultural education, will be realized in the near future.

H. J. C., '09.

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What the South needs is more hog and hominy and less tobacco.

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It is not so much the blunders we make as it is sticking to errors when we find it out.

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The best thing to do is to do your best.

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Senior Agricultural Class.



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## RELATION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY TO SOIL FERTILITY.

There is no other business in all of the branches of agriculture that is more closely related to soil fertility than that of animal industry. Any one can plainly see that one is more or less dependent upon the other. It is a sure fact that stock raising can not be carried on independent of the soil, for from the soil must come the products which indirectly produce the milk, butter, and meats that we look forward to.

Up until the past few years there has been but very little attention given to the importance of animal industry as related to the improvement of the soil throughout the Southern States. People heretofore have always thought of their land as an everlasting producer, regardless of how it is treated. Hence they have neglected its improvement, and for like reasons, to a great extent, they have shown but little interest in animal industry.

Realizing its importance to the farmer, not only from a financial standpoint, but as one of the greatest and most economic as well as scientific soil improvers, the United States Department of Agriculture, just a short period back, began to encourage the establishment of demonstration work along this line, in order to show the farmers what it meant to them in all of its phases. As a consequence, already there have been some valuable reports made by these demonstrators. They have shown us how to improve our breeds of stock, how to increase their capacity for milk, how to put on the greatest amount of flesh in the shortest length of time and at the least cost, at the same time using the cheapest foods, and yet those which the farmer can grow at a small cost. But this is not all; they have likewise shown us that while there is money to be made from the stock as shown above, there is still another revenue to be derived from this business, and that is the manure which is produced. We have learned long ago that most of our foods fed to stock, for instance, cotton seed meal, will give a good return in flesh or milk, according to what you are feeding for, and at the same time be worth 80 per cent. of its original value in the form of manure. In other words, a ton of cotton seed meal, when fed to a herd of cattle, will yield a fine profit in the form of flesh or milk, and when passed out in the form of manure, will be equal in value to sixteen hundred pounds of cotton seed meal. This shows that there are two prof-

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its instead of one to be obtained from the cotton seed meal; and what is true of cotton seed meal is likewise true of all foods in proportion to their original chemical value compared to that of the meal. Hence, while we are improving our grade of stock, thereby demanding a higher price for them, we are improving our soil and forcing it to produce a greater yield per acre. To illustrate, I will give a few figures taken from the results secured by a station that has been engaged in raising live stock in combina-



Spring Lambs Grazing on Vetch and Crimson Clover.

tion with the farm, which show the relation between the two branches of industry. First, this land was sowed in corn and cowpeas, and then beef cattle were allowed to graze it off. The following year this land was planted to cotton, and produced 1,-675 pounds per acre. Another lot, the same size as the above, was planted to corn one year and the next year to cotton, and produced only 1,049 pounds per acre. This shows on the former an increase of 626 pounds of seed cotton, or an increase of \$23.26, taking cotton at 10 cents a pound and seed at \$14.00 per ton, as a result from the peas and grazing. There are numerous other illustrations that could be pointed out which show up equally as well as the above in favor of growing stock in connec-

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tion with the farm, but the one above mentioned is sufficient to show the importance of animal industry as related to soil fertility.

Only a short time back the people of California, realizing the importance of growing stock in connection with agriculture, secured through a petition to their State Legislature the passage of a bill providing for the establishment of an institution in which the principles of dairying and stock raising, and its relations to the fertility of the soil, might be taught to the youths of the State. This State is also carrying on demonstration work with a great number of its farmers to show them the importance of animal industry as related to soil fertility, and to encourage them to take the work in hand and bring to light the "hidden treasures that are buried in the garden."

In early days the State of Wisconsin produced large quantities of wheat, but the land owners continued to grow wheat upon the soil until at last it became so poor that it would not produce enough to pay for the expense of cultivation. They then began to raise stock by grazing them on the land which they had sown in forage crops of different kinds. In connection with this a large proportion of her farmers went into dairying, and as a result, the State of Wisconsin today ranks among the first in the productiveness of its soil. The land owners are getting as good a yield per acre from their soil as they did before the virgin soil was exhausted, and, besides, they ship large quantities of beef and dairy products to the market each year.

This shows what a farmer can expect when he raises stock in connection with his work. It also offers him the following advantages and opportunities that he could not otherwise secure: He has the advantage of using a fertilizer that is almost complete, as well as one that makes itself available as the plant needs it, and hence one more economical from that standpoint than our commercial fertilizers; its effects are not only felt in the present crop, but in several to follow; it improves the texture of the soil, making it easier to till, and earlier to cultivate, and it costs but little when compared with the price of commercial fertilizers. These are advantages that any farmer could enjoy if he would only raise stock on his farm.

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There is nothing that will improve the fertility of the soil and financial condition of the individual farmer, State, or the whole

United States, more than the raising of live stock and crops on the same farm. Hence, it is hoped that in the near future the people of the South will take hold of this movement and push it forward, for when properly done it will revolutionize this great work that we call "farming."

L. C., '09.

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### A STORY.

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One summer a prominent planter of Southwest Alabama engaged a number of boys just from college to harvest his hay for him.

Among these college lads was one young man who was a very delicate, but plucky, young fellow. He was not a boy to be looked upon as a tenderfoot, but was a boy who, when he worked, he worked with his whole soul. This boy's name was Fred Thompson.

Not long had these recruits been on the farm before they realized that something must be done on Sunday for the pleasure of the crowd.

A wealthy old bachelor, whose name was Albert Rhodes, heard of the arrival of the college boys, and knowing that a boy that spends his summer on a farm is a thrifty boy, sent them an invitation to spend most of their Sundays with him.

The boys were very glad to receive the invitation, and on the next Sunday morning they harnessed up a pair of mules to a wagon and turned their thoughts towards the home of Mr. Rhodes. Upon their arrival the old gentleman cordially greeted them and welcomed them into his home. On entering the house the boys were pleasantly surprised by being presented to the bachelor's niece, Miss Flora Butler. She was a charming girl of sixteen summers with dark, wavy hair and sparkling brown eyes.

Upon being invited into dinner the whole room seemed refreshed by the presence of Flora. But luck was with Fred, and he was honored by having the beautiful damsel to occupy the chair next to his. When the meal was finished Mr. Rhodes showed the boys over his plantation, but Fred, being very delicate, would not venture into the July sun, but remained in the house with Flora. While there they told each other of their past lives, and at the end of their tete-a-tete, Fred's life seemed brighter.

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Upon their departure, Mr. Rhodes asked the boys to return soon, and when Fred caught Flora's hand for a good-bye shake she said: "Fred, be sure to come back soon."

During the next week Fred worked hard, and was a happy boy. On Thursday of the same week the rain fell in torrents, and Friday was too wet to harvest hay. The farmer said: "You five boys go to the barn and get those axes and clear up new ground today, and you, Fred, go down in the pasture and catch those horses and take them to Mr. Rhodes. At first this pleased Fred, but the horses soon became stubborn and would not go. All day he worried with them, and just as the sun was sinking beneath the western hills, Fred rode up to the house of Mr. Rhodes. When he retired for the night he was very sick, but had too much manhood to complain. When the breakfast bell rang the next morning Fred was absent. Upon investigation Mr. Rhodes found the boy very sick, and hastened to make him as comfortable as possible. After a short time Flora came in and asked: "Is there anything I can do for you?" Fred replied, "No, Flora." The very presence of the girl caused Fred to feel better. The days wore on and Fred became no better. His comrades came to see him and Flora was constantly at his bedside. Many times had Dr. Swain been to see him, and often shook his head in despair. One morning Mr. Rhodes asked, "Doctor, how is he?" The doctor replied: "The crisis will come tomorrow night, and I hope it will be for the better." All night Flora watched for that hour which decided whether or not Fred would get well. About 3 o'clock his face began to brighten, and Dr. Swain said: "The danger line is crossed, and he will get well."

Many more days Flora nursed him, and finally he was well again. The physician advised him to return home, and after bidding his comrades good-bye, he turned to Flora and said: "Flora, if it had not been for you, I would never have pulled through. You have treated me as well as my mother or sister would have done, and words are inadequate to express my appreciation, and I sincerely hope that the day will come when I can show my appreciation by acts."

Then turning to Mr. Rhodes he said: "Mr. Rhodes, you have treated me as a father would his son, and I heartily thank you."

When Fred graduated the next summer he decided to go to the Catskill Mountains of New York, to spend his summer. Upon

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his arrival Fred took his abode in a cottage on the side of one of the mountains. Here he remained for several weeks, and each day he would take a stroll for miles around. During this time he had become quite a robust man. One day while on his usual stroll he heard in the distance a cry of distress. Fred hastened to the place and saw some one out in a lake struggling with a capsized canoe. At first he considered what he could do to save the person in the lake, but seeing that the strength was fast leaving the one that was struggling for life, he realized that there was only one course to follow, so he sprang into the clear waters of the lake and swam to the drowning person. Upon his arrival he saw that it was a woman. He quickly seized her by the hair and laying her head upon his breast, swam on his back to the shore. The woman soon regained consciousness, and much to Fred's surprise exclaimed "Fred Thompson!" and he immediately recognized her as none other than Flora Butler. After thanking Fred for what he had done they went up to the cottage occupied by Mr. Rhodes and Flora. Fred learned that Mr. Rhodes had become ill and broken down, and had come North for his health. The next day Flora and Fred related to each other all that had taken place since he had left. After a time all was silent, then Fred began: "Flora, I could not tell you when I left, but I will tell you now, that my thoughts have constantly been of you, and I have loved you ever since the afternoon we talked together while the boys were gone to the field. I could not tell you when I left, for I felt that you had treated me just as you would have treated your own brother, and there would come a time later for me to tell you my thoughts. Flora, I am about to begin life for myself, and I feel that with your aid life would be more successful and pleasant to me. Flora, won't you share with me the pleasures and troubles of life?"

Flora softly replied, "Fred, I am willing to share your lot in life, but we must wait till uncle gets better."

Mr. Rhodes never became better, but grew more feeble each day, and as Flora had watched the tender thread of life by the bedside of Fred, just so did Fred watch the ebbing life of Mr. Rhodes until his soul had passed into eternity. Flora was the only heir to her uncle's property, and he stated in his will that it all should be given to her. They told Mr. Rhodes of their engagement before he died, and the feeble old man said to Fred on his

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deathbed, "My boy, take Flora back to the farm, the only place on earth to be happy and independent."

D. M. C., '10.

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ON THE FARM.

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The evening's fading sun paints  
His tinge of beauty on the milky sky,  
As he step by step slowly sinks  
And the peeping stars draw nigh.

The moon looks out  
Upon the fields below as the breeze  
Comes gently riding waves across  
The nodding wheat and dancing trees.

She sees the pastures green,  
The winding brook flowing over rock;  
She sees the farmer's house, quiet and serene,  
And hears the dog and crowing cock.

The corn blades sigh and wave  
In her glorious, silver light  
And even the sleeping cotton loves to bathe,  
While the nightingale sings with all his might.

And now the moon goes down,  
The dog has ceased to bark,  
The breeze makes not one rustling sound,  
As day steals in upon the dark.

The sun comes up,  
And the bleating sheep go out to graze,  
The lowing cows call the milkmaid,  
As the fire in the stove begins to blaze.

Then the eager workman with his team  
Goes hurriedly through the growing field  
To the great, waving sea of gold,  
Which rapidly to his sharpened sickles yield.

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The plowman, too, drives out his plow,  
And rids the crops of grass and weed;  
The fruit trees at each other bow,  
As the bee brings along the pollen they need.

The snowy white ducks and lazy geese  
Go marching slowly to the pool,  
And there they swim at ease,  
Looking for the fishes to pass in a school.

The thirsty swine comes here to drink  
And shield his rounding sides in mud,  
So the hungry fly from him will shrink,  
And find a lodging in the shade.

While all day long in fresh, new hay  
The hens do sing and cackle loud  
And thus their nest of eggs betray  
To the child, triumphant and proud.

And over hill and dale  
The bee speeds swiftly on his way,  
Visiting flowers never stale,  
To each other whispering softly, as they sway.

—J. W. R.

#### *ROTATION OF CROPS.*

The productiveness of the soil upon which crops are to be grown is a question of primary importance to every farmer. In many of the older agricultural regions, it is of grave import; from continuous cropping, the soil has lost much, and, in many cases, nearly all of its virgin fertility. This condition has been brought about far too rapidly in America, chiefly because of the large amount of virgin soil that has been available. This, however, is now almost gone; hence the desirability, if not to say the necessity, of restoring our worn out lands to a condition where they may be depended on to produce crops profitably.

There are four general means of increasing productiveness; namely, tillage, fertilizing the land, rotation of crops, and breed-

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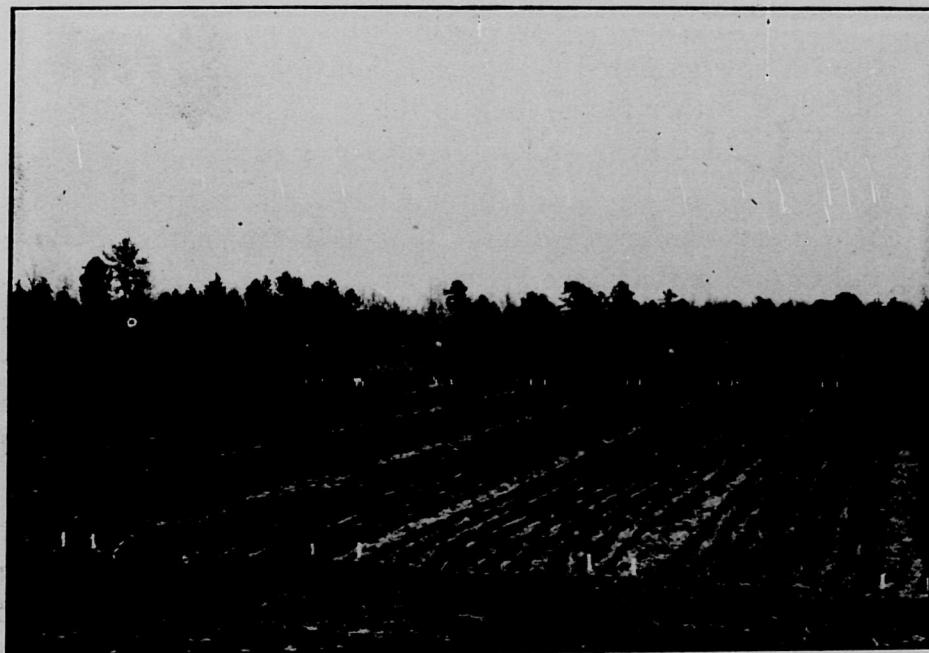
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The productiveness of the soil upon which crops are to be grown is a question of primary importance to every farmer. In many of the older agricultural regions, it is of grave import; from continuous cropping, the soil has lost much, and, in many cases, nearly all of its virgin fertility. This condition has been brought about far too rapidly in America, chiefly because of the large amount of virgin soil that has been available. This, however, is now almost gone; hence the desirability, if not to say the necessity, of restoring our worn out lands to a condition where they may be depended on to produce crops profitably.

There are four general means of increasing productiveness; namely, tillage, fertilizing the land, rotation of crops, and breed-

ing of plants whereby better and more productive varieties are secured. Of these four, I shall discuss the third.

Rotation, using the term loosely and in a broad way, is practiced to some extent by every farmer; but, usually, in a haphazard manner. It is only in old and well settled countries that scientific and well planned rotation is followed. In these sections, the land from reckless tillage and continuous cropping becomes depleted. The soil of new countries is fertile and seemingly exhaustless. The land is exploited and robbed, and the robber moves on. The first settlers of a country never remain after the land becomes worn, if, within reasonable reach, there is an unsettled section where untilled soil may be had. However,



Plot Tests of Oats on Station Farm.

there is another class that never go to a region for the purpose of settling it, but prefer to go where the land has been cleared and is in a more or less run-down condition. This class must realize that the same soil must be used over and over again for centuries, and see the imperativeness of looking to the future and laying out a plan that will operate to cause the land yearly to become more and more productive.

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In the early history of our country the principal object of the owners of landed property was the raising of tobacco. The land was continuously cropped with it until it was almost completely

exhausted. In order to improve these old tobacco lands, a system of rotation was followed. This consisted of first raising the crop of Indian corn, which, according to the mode of cultivation, was a good preparation for wheat; then a crop of wheat, after which the land was rested for about eighteen months. The chief feature of this rotation is the respite given the land. This is one of the oldest methods resorted to for recuperating soil known in the history of husbandry. The fallow was a part of all early rotation practices. It was employed by the Jews, Greeks, and Romans, and is common in many parts of Russia and other countries today. Virgil advises:

“On the alternate seasons hold thine arm,  
And a new gathered field assail thou not,  
Suffer it rather for so long to lie,  
Fallow and thirsty under the parching sky.”

Even in our country we are familiar with the custom of throwing out old fields that have become so worn that their cultivation has ceased to be a profit. There is little doubt that fallowing will in time restore to land its original fertility; but the time required for this is too long for it to be of practical value. Therefore some other means must be sought which will accomplish the same purpose in a much shorter period of time.

There is no question as to the value of rotation of crops; the only dispute being in respect to the feasibility of it in certain cases, and the merits and demerits of different courses. At the Louisiana experiment stations, it was found that as a result of eleven years' rotation, the yield was increased by from 20 to 25 per cent., without application of fertilizers. In another experiment on a different part of the same farm, the yield was increased by from 400 to 500 per cent. as a result of a rotation with fertilizers. Thus, it is seen that an increase in the yield may be counted on when rotation is followed without applying manures, but that far better results are obtained from a combination of the two.

A century or more ago much attention was given by the farmers of this country to the so-called Norfolk system of rotation, which depended upon a four year basis, practiced at that time on the light lands of Norfolk county, England. About this time-

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there came into vogue another system of farming known as the clean tillage system, which was the direct result of one Jethro Tull's ideas.

This man claimed that the growth of plant life was promoted by the taking in by the roots of fine particles of soil. Reasoning from this, he naturally came to the conclusion that the finer the particles of soil, the more available material there would be for promoting the growth of the plant. The chief value, therefore, of cultivating the crop lay in keeping the soil in a finely divided state. This theory, we have since learned, is erroneous, but the practice which it led up to is still considered to be wise. This was the beginning of the practice of cultivating crops by means of horse implements, and marks an epoch in husbandry.

The most common, and perhaps the oldest, reason given for the benefits derived from rotation of crops, is that certain crops use certain elements of the soil more freely than the others, and, if the same crop is grown on the same land for several successive years, that particular element of which it requires such a large proportion, will eventually become exhausted. There is a great deal of truth in this, though it fails to give satisfaction to our more recent investigators. Other reasons are demanded for the rapid failing of some lands when single cropped, and their corresponding improvement when placed under a well planned system of rotation. One crop tends to correct the evils of another. The amount of one element upon which one crop draws so largely is increased by some other. So by following one crop with another the inequalities are evened up. By a judicious selection of crops, a large amount of plant food may be incorporated into the soil by plowing in the decaying parts of each crop. The most striking examples of the great value of this are those furnished by the plants which have the peculiar property of gathering nitrogen from the air and storing it in little nodules which grow on their roots. When the stubbles of such crops are plowed under, the nitrogen is rendered available. Since nitrogen is the most expensive element of all plant food, no rotation is complete without one of these leguminous crops. The leguminous crops comprise all of the clovers, alfalfa, cowpeas, beans, lupine, and the like.

Well considered rotation schemes reduce the necessity of excessive use of concentrated commercial fertilizer. On the other

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hand, they may utilize such fertilizers to much greater advantage than do the continuous cropping schemes. It allows the farmer to meet the need of the staple markets by providing a continuous and certain output. It develops a continuous and consecutive plan of business, maintaining the continuity of farm labor, and reducing the social and economic difficulties that arise from employing many men at another time.

Just what scheme should be followed depends on many local conditions. What would suit South Alabama would not suit North Alabama. First of all, it should be in accordance with the farmer's business, having for its aim the support of live stock, if he is a dairyman or stock farmer; the demands of the grain trade, if he is a grain farmer; the supply of the cotton market, if he is in a cotton region. Labor has an important bearing on the kind of rotation, the farmer being careful to keep the amount of land in cultivation within his capabilities. The farm must be large enough to give sufficient area for the growth of every crop in the rotation scheme in the same year.

For our section, I think the following three-year course desirable: First year, corn, followed in the fall by winter oats; second year, cowpeas planted after the oats have been harvested; third year, cotton. This scheme brings in all that is necessary for a good rotation. It furnishes humus for the soil, and nitrogen for the succeeding crop. By means of it, all the cereal food stuff for stock may be raised. It has in it a money crop which should always be a surplus. However, it is not so much what plan is pursued, so long as an intelligent one is adopted, which is as important as is the necessity of rotation.

Since the discovery of the leguminous property of the cowpea, which supplies the missing link and adds humus and nitrogen to the soil, rotation has marked a new epoch in farming in the South, and is fast obviating the necessity of depending on cotton and commercial fertilizers which have been so near the ruination of hosts of farmers in this section. L. J. HAWLEY, '10.

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"My wife always kisses me when she wants money."

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*SOME SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO ORGANIZE BOYS'  
AGRICULTURAL CLUBS IN ALABAMA.*

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My Dear Young Men:—

In response to your request I write you for publication in the Orange and Blue some recommendations as to how to organize Boys' Agricultural Clubs in Alabama.

The membership should consist of all boys and young men from 12 to 21 years of age, who are interested in farm development and agricultural subjects, and who will agree to conform to such a constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations, as may be adopted by the society or club, to which he would attach himself.

Believing that we are all deeply concerned in the welfare of our boys, and their future usefulness to themselves, their families and the State, will in a large measure hinge upon their knowledge of agriculture, which will also encourage them to remain on the farm; we, therefore, recommend for your consideration these suggestions:

First:—That you appeal to every teacher in the towns and rural districts to organize all their boys, between the ages of 12 and 21, into agricultural clubs or societies.

Second:—That they have their constitution and by-laws and elect under these their own officers.

Third:—That immediately after they organize, each club or society appoint a committee of its own, and also request a committee of the patrons or neighbors to assist them in collecting and securing contributions for prizes to be offered for the best crop or crops worked and produced by the members.

Fourth:—That the teachers of each school be urged to require the boys to write speeches, essays, or hold debates on agricultural subjects, and that the community be invited to these public occasions, which should be held at least once every month.

Fifth:—That county organizations be perfected and conventions of all the boys of the county between 12 and 21 be called.

Sixth:—State conventions should follow, to be held under the direction of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries and the Superintendent of Education, and will be called after counties or schools are organized.

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In addition to the above suggestions, we recommend the following constitution and by-laws for the Boys' Clubs of Alabama.

Article 1—This society shall be called \_\_\_\_\_.

Article 2—The object of this club is to encourage the study of and to teach practical and demonstrative agriculture and to create a greater interest in agriculture among all classes.

Article 3—The members of this society shall consist of all boys and young men, between the ages of 12 and 21 attending any of the schools of Alabama; also all teachers in our schools may be considered honorary members.

Article 4—The officers of this club shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by vote of the club. The first officers shall be elected at the first meeting; afterwards, they shall be elected at the last meeting of each term of the school, and shall assume their duties at the following meeting, and shall hold office until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

The President shall preside at all meetings, and in case of his absence, the Vice-President shall take the chair. The Secretary-Trasurer shall perform the duties belonging to those offices. A program committee may be appointed to co-operate with the teacher or teachers, and they shall select subjects for discussion, assign and announce speakers at the meeting previous to the one at which they will speak. In case any speaker is absent, the chairman shall appoint a member to take his place.

The President may call a special meeting upon the recommendation of the program committee, and who must state in the call the object of the meeting.

Article 5—This constitution and by-laws may be amended by vote of two-thirds majority, notice of such proposed amendments having been given in writing at a preceding meeting.

Article 6—Regular meetings shall be held on \_\_\_\_\_.

Article 7—There shall be no initiation fee or dues, but as money is needed to meet necessary expenses, the amount shall be raised by a tax levied on each member, provided a resolution, so ordering, shall pass by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

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Article 8—Any member who violates this constitution and by-laws, refuses to perform according to the assignment of the program committee, or is absent from three successive meetings, and without a legitimate excuse, may be fined twenty-five cents for each time absent, or in case he refuses to pay the fine he may be expelled.

Further by-laws may be drafted to govern all local conditions, but must not conflict with the above constitution.

We appeal to all Superintendents of Education and teachers in the State to organize their boys into agricultural clubs as speedily as possible. This is a work of great importance. With the Alabama Polytechnic Institute and the nine Agricultural Schools, all organized and co-operating with the Department of Agriculture and Industries, there is every reason to believe that many thousands of boys should be rapidly enrolled.

Boys of Alabama, rally to this movement, and next summer, let us call a State convention, at which ten thousand boys and young men shall answer to roll call.

J. A. WILKINSON,  
Commissioner Agriculture and Industries.

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#### AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ALABAMA.

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One of the reasons that Alabama offers such good opportunities along agricultural lines is that the soil is fertile and the climate is favorable to the production of almost all farm crops. In the northern part of the State, wheat and all other small grains can be grown to an advantage; in the southern part rice, sugar cane, and even oranges do well. Between the northern and southern parts of the state any crop that will thrive on a moderate rich soil, at the average temperatures of 75° and 81° respectively in summer and 42° and 40° in winter, can be made.

Much of the tillable land of Alabama is not under cultivation, and much of that under cultivation needs care and development. At the present time about 60 per cent of the tillable land is being cultivated, but with the system of farming used now, this is not enough. From this we see that opportunities are open for us to put more land under cultivation and improve that which we are cultivating.

Good markets can be found throughout the State. Birming-

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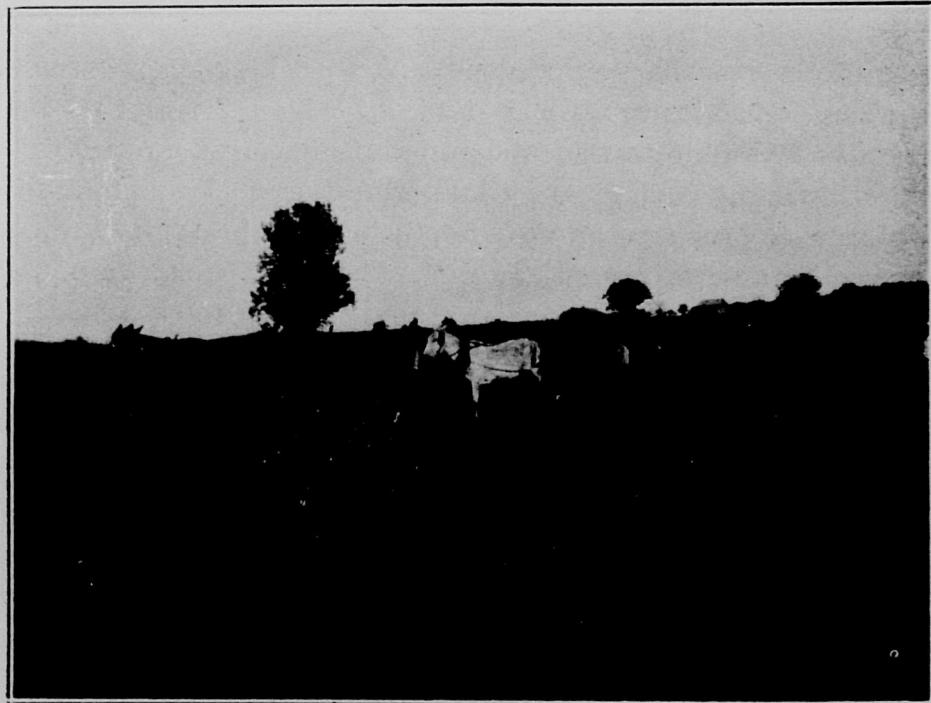
ham, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, Anniston and Huntsville are all good markets, Birmingham and Mobile being especially good truck and poultry markets. Atlanta, Chattanooga, Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans can be reached from any part of the State in from four to ten hours; northern markets can be reached in from ten to twenty-four hours.

Transportation facilities are good throughout the State. The L. & N., the Southern, the Seaboard, the W. of A., and the A. G. S., all afford good transportation. In parts of the State that border on the rivers, competition between the railroads and the steamboats make the freight rates low.

Alabama offers great opportunities to those who desire to engage in hay farming. Alfalfa can be grown on almost any lime soil of the State, after it has been inoculated with the proper bacteria, four to six cuttings being obtained annually.

In the Black Belt Johnson grass will pay from \$20 to \$30 per acre profit. Clover and Vetch produce good yields of excellent hay; oats and sorghum make good hay and also make good yields.

Corn is grown in every county in Alabama but there is not as much grown as should be. It can be produced as cheaply in Alabama as it can in any other State that is not in the corn belt;



Auburn Boys on Sumpter County Hay Farm.

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much of the land produces a good crop when no fertilizer is used. Soil of average fertility will produce from 25 to 50 bushels per acre.

Cotton is also grown in every county in the State. The quality of the staple is good and commands the highest market prices. Alabama ranks fourth in cotton production.

Owing to climate, soil, markets, and transportation facilities, Alabama is an excellent state for market gardening. Southern Alabama is especially good for early and late trucking crops, and owing to the warm climate two crops each year can be obtained. All trucking crops can be grown and they command the highest market prices, especially the earliest and latest vegetables. It is hardly necessary to say that trucking crops can be produced very much cheaper in Alabama than in most other states. The cause of this is that the climate is so warm that little protection from frost is needed and the abundant supply of rainfall makes irrigation unnecessary.

Opportunities are open in Alabama for the fruit grower. The fruit that is grown most now is the peach; the pear and apple are also being grown very profitably in some sections of the State.

Of the nuts we find the pecan the most popular in Alabama. The pecan thrives throughout the State, and probably produces as well in the extreme northern or extreme southern as it does in any other part of the State. Perhaps the largest pecan orchard in the State is on the W. of A. railroad near Lanett. It consists of about fifty acres of trees that are about 15 years old.

Many other crops can be profitably grown but space will not permit a discussion of them, even as limited as the above ones.

Perhaps the greatest opportunity along the agricultural lines of our State is open to the man that raises live-stock. The climate is such that the stock need but little protection in winter and in most of the State a pasture can be had nearly all the year round.

According to Batten's Agricultural Directory for 1908, "On the 223,000 farms in Alabama there is one head of cattle for every 25 acres, one mule to every 89 acres, one sheep to every 118 acres, one horse to every 129 acres, and one hog to every 168 acres." We see how few live stock is raised when we remember that the average size of our farms is 927 acres. The demand for all kinds of live stock in-

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Perhaps the greatest opportunity along the agricultural lines of our State is open to the man that raises live-stock. The climate is such that the stock need but little protection in winter and in most of the State a pasture can be had nearly all the year round.

According to Batten's Agricultural Directory for 1908, "On the 223,000 farms in Alabama there is one head of cattle for every 25 acres, one mule to every 89 acres, one sheep to every 118 acres, one horse to every 129 acres, and one hog to every 168 acres." We see how few live stock is raised when we remember that the average size of our farms is 927 acres. The demand for all kinds of live stock in-

creases each year. This can be seen by the increased price of mules during the last few years. The mule that sold for \$100 five years ago would be worth \$125 to \$135 today. The opportunities open in pork and beef production are as great as other branches of live-stock.

The warmer climate and ability to produce such a variety of food stuffs in Alabama makes dairying a profitable industry. Milk retails at 30 to 35 cents per gallon and butter at 35 cents per pound in this state; in the central west the retail price is 20 to 25 cents per gallon for milk and 25 cents per pound for butter. The labor is also cheaper here than in the central West.

The opportunities open in the line of breeding of both plants and animals are without bounds. This is a field that is greatly in need of men. In our State it is "wide open." There is a sure fortune to those who enter it, and not only this, but they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have been of service to the State and to agriculture in general by improving plants or animals. The breeding of cotton and corn are of special importance here.

Positions are open throughout the state to farm superintendents. The District Agricultural Schools and the State Colleges will soon need more teachers and men to carry on the experimental work.

All of these positions pay well and it is usually the scientific agriculturalist that is best fitted for them.

In conclusion, we find that the "Agricultural Opportunities in Alabama," are as great as any other Southern State, and greater than those in the Northern States. Because we can raise any crop that the North can raise, and cotton besides.

J. T. W. '10.

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### *RURAL RHYME.*

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Come, Goddess of Poesy,  
Inspire with words sublime,  
That I may praise the farmer  
In verses that will rhyme.

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#### RURAL RHYME.

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Come, Goddess of Poesy,  
Inspire with words sublime,  
That I may praise the farmer  
In verses that will rhyme.

We all are nature students  
And like the subject well,  
But what a task is set us!—  
Our love in rhyme to tell.

Now should our professors tell us,  
To write a story true,  
With some romantic touches,  
Why, that! we all could do.

Don't laugh at this assertion,  
Nor give incredulous smiles,  
For *some have love* experienced  
And own Dan Cupid's wiles.

“Born, not made are poets,”  
So say some men of brain,  
But this has been refuted  
By one I need not name.

I do not care to argue  
This question of the day,  
But set about my task at once  
And waste no time in play.

It matters not where one may look  
From Texas up to Maine,  
We are sure to find the farmer  
Mid fields of growing grain.

But farming is not all a poem,  
We must work, and sweat and glean,  
So all we say in this story,  
Is much like a summer night's dream.

If strawberries grew without weeding,  
If cherries were rubies aglow,  
If plum trees bore turquoise, the farmer  
Would no longer bend over the hoe.

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If strawberries grew without weeding,  
If cherries were rubies aglow,  
If plum trees bore turquoise, the farmer  
Would no longer bend over the hoe.

If each apple sold for a dollar,  
And peaches would sell for a dime.  
If each cabbage head was a diamond,  
Wouldn't the farmers have a good time?

If farmers didn't have to do chores,  
If milking machines all would work,  
If cow stables were all self cleaning,  
Then farming would boom with a jerk.

If farmers made hay in wet weather,  
If drought did no harm to the grain,  
If bugs ate nothing but rag-weeds,  
Then farm labor would pick up again.

If cobs were covered with gold coins,  
Instead of with kernels of corn,  
We would spend our last days on the homestead,  
And never look blue or forlorn.

If farmers were rich like Rockefeller,  
If lard paid like Standard Oil,  
We might play golf with Carnegie,  
And shirk from a lifetime of toil.

But give me the honest farmer's life,  
With lives that are natural, hearts that are pure,  
"Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,"  
Where love is sincere, friendship sure.

JULIAN J. CULVER, '09.

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*THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGY.*

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Entomology is a branch of Science which, until within recent years, has been considered as an unimportant part of Zoology. Those who became interested in it at all were so interested principally as collectors whose eyes had become opened to the existence of an innumerable host of insect forms many of which exhibited color combinations and patterns far more beautiful in

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richness of harmony and in delicacy and intricacy of combination than the most skillful of artists could ever hope to imitate. Here indeed was a vast group of living creatures to whose beauty of color and grace of form were added most wonderful and perfect adaptations to their environment. Within the bodies of even the smallest of these creatures were contained complete and very complex muscular, nervous, respiratory, alimentary, reproductive and other systems for performing all of the vital functions accomplished within our own bodies. The thought that all of these functions can be provided for within the bodies of animals possibly not more than a hundredth of an inch in length is enough to give to any thoughtful man an interest in some of the most delicate and wonderful works of the Creator of Life.

It is not strange therefore that those who once began the collection and study of insects became most enthusiastic devotees of the subject. With most of such students this was only an avocation—their hobby—but to it many men who have become eminent in the business or professional world have given the very best of their thoughts and lives. This has been their real life-work though they were compelled to do something else also to earn a living.

While insects have commanded the attention of Man for thousands of years so that they are very frequently mentioned in Biblical writings, still Entomology as a science is only about one hundred and fifty years old. It, as does also Botany, dates back to the work of the Swedish naturalist, Carolus Linnaeus, and was made possible only by the consistent application of the system of using what we now call "scientific names." In that practise lie the foundations of all divisions of Botany and Zoology as sciences.

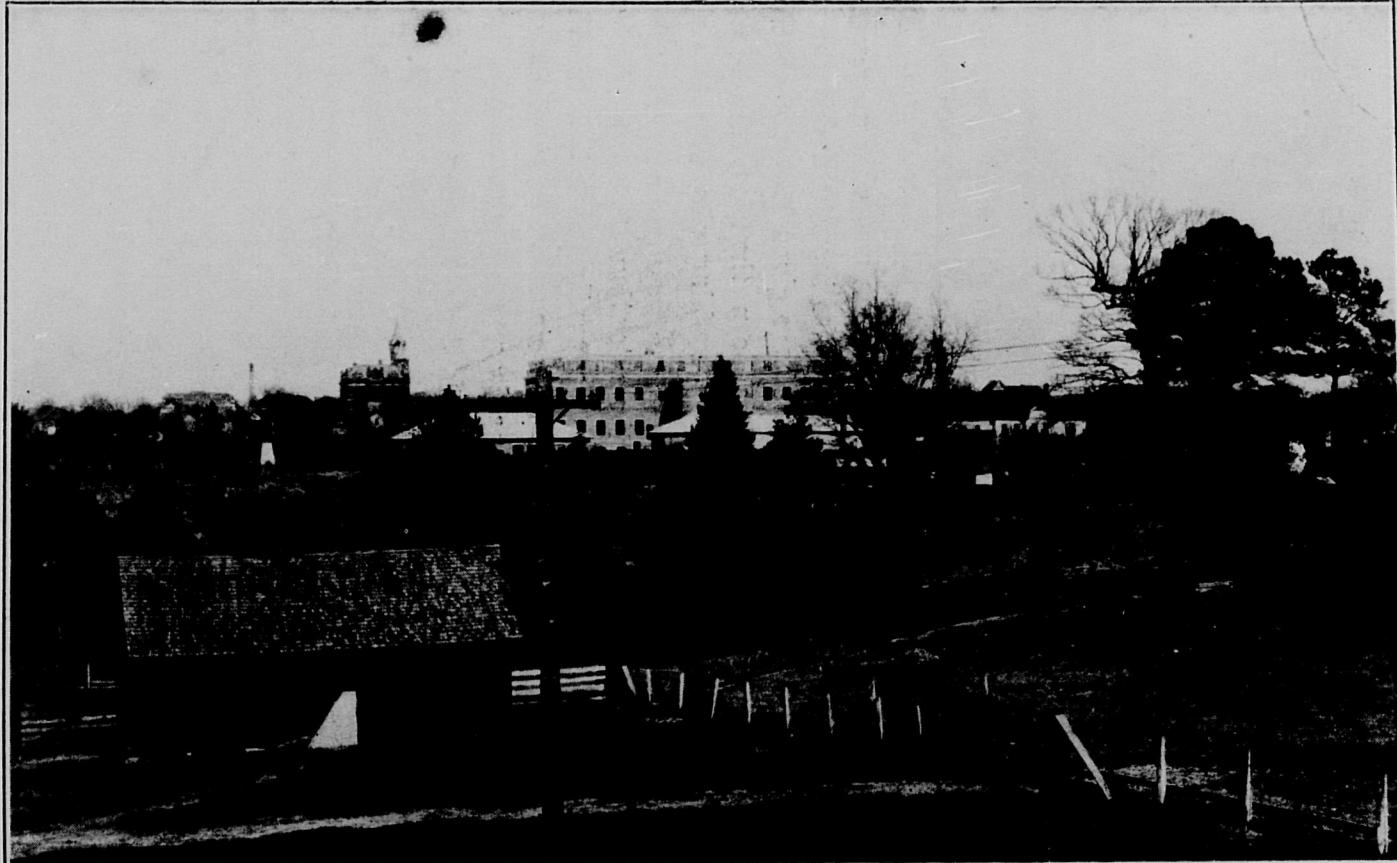
It is only during the past fifty years, and principally within the United States, that especial attention has been given to that phase of Entomology which has come to be designated as Economic Entomology. The remarkable development of this portion of the subject has resulted largely as a consequence of the work of the many State Experiment Stations. It is already regarded as one of the most important divisions of Experiment Station work and as one of the subjects to which the agriculturist and horticulturist must give attention as fully and carefully as he

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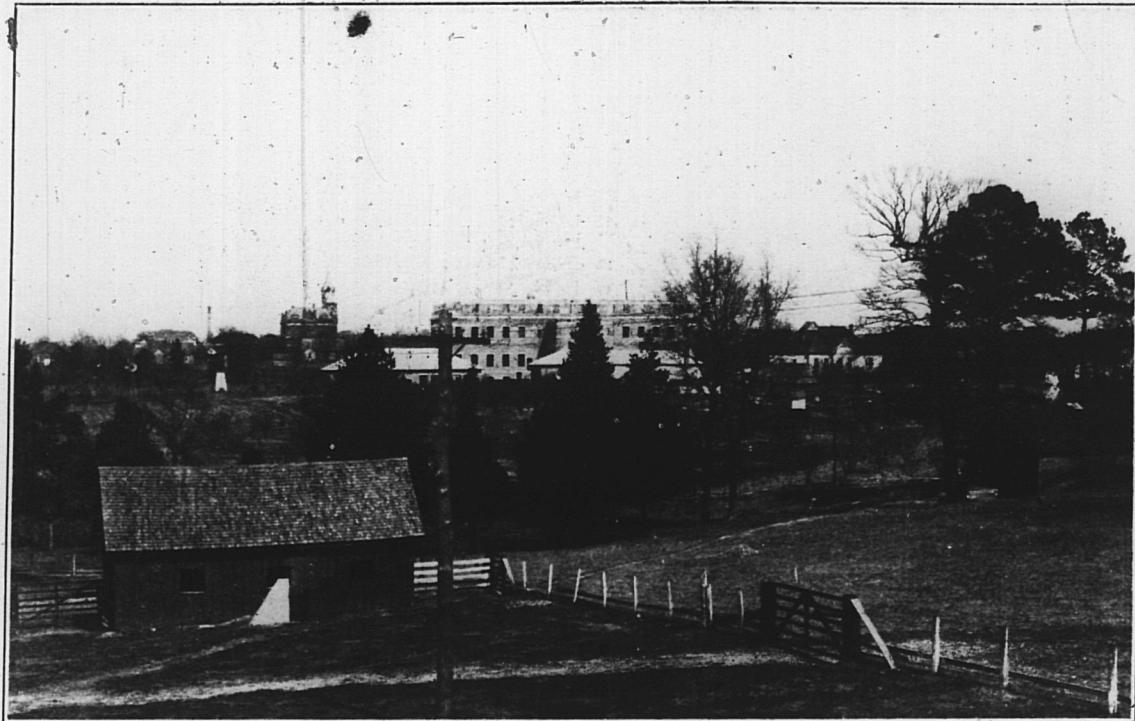
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General View of College from Experiment Station.



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would to fertilization and cultivation yet the importance of the subject is only beginning to be realized.

The total value of agricultural products, both plant and animal, in the United States in 1904 was estimated by the officials of the national Department of Agriculture at approximately \$5,000,000,000. For 1907, the total was placed at \$7,412,000,-000, and for 1908 at \$7,778,000,000. This means that the average daily income of the farmers of the country is more than \$21,000,000. The real meaning of these figures is actually inconceivable. Their vastness out-reaches the measure of even the imagination.

Of the total stated above more than one-half is derived from plant products among which insect injury is almost invariably present in some degree and in the case of many of our chief products it may amount to a very considerable portion of the entire crop. The injury to animal products while proportionately less than to plant is still a very large item as in the case of the "cattle tick" and other animal pests.

For the year 1904, with a total valuation of agricultural products amounting to \$5,000,000,000, the loss attributable to insect and other closely related pests was estimated by Mr. C. L. Marlatt, Assistant Entomologist of the United States to have been not less than \$700,000,000, or about 14 per cent of the total valuation. The percentage of loss for all crops and throughout the entire country is not likely to vary widely from year to year. Upon this basis it appears probable that during 1908 the people of this country suffered an actual loss from insects amounting to nearly, if not quite, \$1,000,000,000, or an amount greater than the tremendous total of the appropriations made for all of the expenses of the national government during that year.

While these are startling statements it can be shown that they are really conservative estimates. Insect injury to agricultural products has steadily increased during the progress of both extensive and intensive farming in this country and it can be shown most conclusively that, unless prevented by some measures of control, insect damage is certain to increase from year to year not only in the aggregate with the increased value of all products but also proportionately, that is, in the percentage of the product which is destroyed.

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The importance of the subject is becoming more fully apprecia-

ted by farmers to whom it means dollars and cents and it may be the difference between rich profits and possibly financial ruin at the end of a season of hard toil. As an educational subject it has long constituted the principal part of courses in Invertebrate Zoology at institutions situated away from the seashore. It is now being taken up very commonly in a simple way in Nature Study courses. It is being given an increasingly large place in the curricula of the Agricultural Colleges. In the Agricultural High Schools it must soon find a place. But who will be fitted to teach it? The demand for teachers is greater than the supply of qualified men. The state and national departments of entomology are constantly enlarging the scope of their work and calling loudly for trained men to fill positions of responsibility as field agents, inspectors, station assistants, entomologists, etc. Public museums are requiring entomologists as curators of collections. The experiment stations throughout the country are constantly calling for more men who are prepared in this line. Possibly the most attractive field has been but recently created through the act of Congress known as the Adams Act which makes a special appropriation to each of the State Experiment Stations for conducting original scientific investigations. The study of insects and methods for their control offers an immediately important and limitless field for such investigations. The qualifications demanded of an "investigator" are of the very highest kind. There is a strong tendency to require advanced study as preparatory for the undertaking of work in this field in which there will always be room for good men.

In few other fields is there greater assurance of abundant opportunities for obtaining a comfortable livelihood, for doing a real service to one's fellow-men, for being engaged in work that is constantly new and interesting and at the same time for attaining a position of eminence in the scientific world than can be given to the men of high character who by earnest effort may fit themselves for some special branch of Entomology.

W. E. HINDS,  
Professor of Entomology.

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#### MAINTAINING OF SOIL FERTILITY.

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An efficient or yielding soil is perhaps the problem of most

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An efficient or yielding soil is perhaps the problem of most

direct profit and utility to any one engaged in the practice of agriculture.

There are many very practical methods by which the soil fertility may be in a measure maintained.

The kind of soil in a country determines to a large extent the kind of people living upon it. This statement is too true for past ages, but we think it need not necessarily be so for the future. The old aphorism, "A rich soil a rich people, a poor soil a poor people," depends only on the point of view for the methods of tillage have not been such as would test the producing capacity of a soil; if it happened to have a sufficient amount of available plant food in the surface soil it was a rich soil, otherwise a poor soil, but the kind of subconscious idea, all the more firmly fixed in the mind of every one, that this, was a random arrangement of nature and nothing we could do would make any possible difference, is being rapidly dispelled from the minds of the people.

The fact that a soil does not yield sufficiently from simple tillage is not a proof that it has no more plant food in it, or is capable of producing no better crops. Conclusions reached by the Bureau of Soils show us, that so far as the mineral matter is concerned, all soils have sufficient, and the question is, how to maintain an adequate amount of available plant food for the production of paying crops. It is claimed that this may be accomplished by a properly regulated system of crop rotation, and this is certainly true for the nitrogenous elements. By fittingly introducing leguminous crops in the rotation, the nitrogen of the soil may not only be maintained, but gradually increased.

As to whether there are crops which will enrich the soil in the other elements is, perhaps, an uninvestigated fact; however, it seems not at all improbable. We know all the elements are present in the sub-soil, if not in the soil, and the question is, how can they be brought to the surface where they can be utilized for plant growth. There are certain plants which are exceptionally rich in these elements and which can be used as catch crops, and also for green manure. We do not see why they would not add these elements to the soil, besides they would tend to improve the texture.

The physical character of the soil is also an important factor of soil fertility. Many soils which are thought to be in a state of exhaustion need improvement only in physical texture, because

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the chemical reactions that take place in the soil and the ease with which plant roots penetrate the soil are due to its physical character. Also the food and moisture which may be brought from the lower strata depends upon the physical condition. Perhaps the most practical methods of maintaining the physical texture of the soil is the addition of organic matter in various ways; and proper tillage. One of the greatest defects to the methods of farming in this country is poor tillage due to the use of inferior agricultural implements.

Another means of maintaining the fertility of soils is the production of live stock on the farm. Probably the most perfect fertilizer that has ever yet been discovered is barn-yard manure. It is a well established fact that only about 15 to 20 percent of the fertilizer value of a food substance is lost in passing through the animal body; when we consider the value of the animal in other ways as; meat, milk, the work it may be able to do, or the money for which it may be sold, etc., then indeed do we see how valuable a method this must be. The stock can be raised almost clear of expense by feeding a large portion of farm products to animals and returning the manure to the soil.

The methods of fertilizing soils chiefly practiced in this country is application of commercial fertilizers. This is a very complex, and a direct method which should not be. The great question needed to be solved is not how to grow a crop for the next year or next generation, but to permanently maintain the fertility of the soil.

Within recent years bacteria have come to be recognized as playing a large part in soil fertility, some are beneficial and some are not, yet the conditions under which they grow are easily controlled. This method is only in its infancy of development, nevertheless valuable results, as the inoculation of soil for leguminous crops, have been obtained.

There are many other local and general methods of improving and maintaining soil fertility, but the ones given above are some of the most practical and the beauty of it is that they need not be practiced separately and distinctly, but can and should, all be carried on together on the plantation.

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**PORK PRODUCTION IN ALABAMA.**

“Musing o'er the frail inclosure  
Which contains the feeding swine,  
Solemn thought and sweet composure  
Permeate this brain of mine.”

Should we produce our pork in Alabama or should we send our money to the North and West, receiving in return cheap meats that are not needed there, meats for which we are forced to pay double value, as the railroads and jobbers come in for their profits?

In the United States the average number of hogs per thousand inhabitants is 827. Many of our states raise very few hogs, and Alabama falls very far below an average, raising only 778 hogs per thousand inhabitants; each head being valued at \$2.03 on an average. This means that the pro rata share of each individual is only one and three tenths pounds of the state's yearly production.

Pork raising in Alabama is of great importance for many reasons. From repeated experiments and practical experience, it has been demonstrated that pork can be produced as cheaply in Alabama as in any place in the world.

In the corn belt, where most of the pork is produced the construction of their buildings is an important factor. These houses are built very tight and at considerable cost, because the hogs are kept confined most of the year, while in Alabama they need only a shed with three sides closed, leaving the south side open.

The pastures of Alabama are far superior to those of any part of the corn belt. By planting different crops, we may obtain pastures practically the year round. The main crops are alfalfa, cowpeas, peanuts, clover, soy beans, vetches, sorghums, and grasses, all of which will grow well in our state, and each, except sorghum and the grasses, will add to the fertility of the soil.

The cost of making one hundred pounds of gain with the feeds, supplemented with corn, is as follows:

Alfalfa and corn \$2.56.

Cowpeas and corn \$2.87.

Peanuts and corn \$2.05.

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Should we produce our pork in Alabama or should we send our money to the North and West, receiving in return cheap meats that are not needed there, meats for which we are forced to pay double value, as the railroads and jobbers come in for their profits?

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Pork raising in Alabama is of great importance for many reasons. From repeated experiments and practical experience, it has been demonstrated that pork can be produced as cheaply in Alabama as in any place in the world.

In the corn belt, where most of the pork is produced the construction of their buildings is an important factor. These houses are built very tight and at considerable cost, because the hogs are kept confined most of the year, while in Alabama they need only a shed with three sides closed, leaving the south side open.

The pastures of Alabama are far superior to those of any part of the corn belt. By planting different crops, we may obtain pastures practically the year round. The main crops are alfalfa, cowpeas, peanuts, clover, soy beans, vetches, sorghums, and grasses, all of which will grow well in our state, and each, except sorghum and the grasses, will add to the fertility of the soil.

The cost of making one hundred pounds of gain with the feeds, supplemented with corn, is as follows:

Alfalfa and corn \$2.56.

Cowpeas and corn \$2.87.

Peanuts and corn \$2.05.

Sorghum and corn \$4.46.

Soy beans and corn \$1.96.

Corn alone \$7.34.

By the above statement we see that we cannot afford to feed on corn alone without a loss of about one and five tenths cents on every pound of gain, but when it is supplemented with green feed, at our present market prices, we will make from two to four cents on every pound of gain.

There is a large profit in raising as well as in feeding hogs. Every sow will produce, on an average, about twelve pigs a year, and in six months these should weigh about two hundred pounds each. This at six cents per pound would give us \$12.00 per hog or \$144.00 for the lot. \$75.00 will cover the cost of feeding the twelve hogs for six months, and \$15.00 the sow for one year, leaving a clear profit of \$54.00. Considering the fact that \$15.00 was the original amount invested for the sow, this shows a profit of 360 per cent. on the investment. The laws of Alabama allow you only eight per cent for money on interest. Why not raise hogs and make from 200 to 375 per cent on your money?

But there is another side of this matter to be considered, with which every pork producer must become familiarized; that is, the diseases among hogs. The only one we need fear here is the Hog Cholera or Swine Plague. If this disease should break out among the hogs, it would doubtless do a great deal of damage before it could be arrested. When it first starts, move all the uninfected hogs to another part of the farm to prevent the spread of the disease; then thoroughly disinfect the old lots. In the treatment of this disease a formula given by Dr. Salmon has proved very successful. It consists of:

Wood Charcoal 1 pound.

Sulphur 1 pound.

Sodium Chloride (common salt) 2 pounds.

Sodium bicarbonate (common soda) 2 pounds.

Sodium hyposulphite 2 pounds.

Sodium sulphate 1 pound.

Antimony sulphate 1 pound.

This should be well mixed with the ground feed, a large table spoonful for every two hundred pounds of live weight to be

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treated, and given once each day. If the hogs are too sick to come to their feed they should be drenched. In this, much care must be exercised, as they are easily suffocated by drenching. Again hogs are frequently affected with lice, but these are easily destroyed by dipping the hogs in a two per cent solution of Creoline.

Some may ask if we should try to raise hogs alone. Certainly not, as this can be carried on very easily with any kind of farming. Hogs are almost indispensable on the truck or dairy farm to consume the wastes and surplus milk. To make a success, every farmer should produce all the pork that is needed on his farm, and have a large surplus to sell to the Alabama markets. As soon as our farmers become fully convinced of the necessity of raising all needed stock on their own farms, they will insure their perfect independence of other markets and thus increase their bank deposits.

O. C. PRATHER, '09.

---

Master—I'm sorry to hear, Pat that your wife is dead.

Patrick—Faith an 'tis a sad day for us all, sir. The hand that rocked the cradle has kicked the bucket.

---

A man made his wife a present of a fine parlor lamp. She thanked him profoundly, saying: "My dear it reminds me so much of you." The lamp being a very costly one, the man's egotism led him to inquire in what way it was like him. "Well," his better half responded. "It is very handsome to look at. It requires a great deal of attention; has lots of brass about it; it is not very bright; It often flares up; It is liable at any moment to explode, especially when it is half full; It is unsteady on its legs; It is always out at bedtime; and it seems I cannot make it quit smoking.

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## Editorial.

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In getting out this issue the editors have been very seriously handicapped on account of the limited time, examinations, and other unforeseen and unavoidable occurrences, yet nevertheless, we have tried to do our best under the circumstances, and sincerely hope that our efforts have met with success. In this issue we have tried to show the people what Auburn is doing along agricultural lines, and, in our feeble way, to point out some of the problems that confront the Alabama farmer of today, and also something of the opportunities which the State holds out to him.

We expect to distribute this issue rather widely throughout the State, especially among the secondary schools, and trust that it may prove instrumental in bringing a large number of agricultural students to Auburn next year. We also hope that it will aid the under-classmen here at Auburn in deciding what course they will take. To the men who elect this course, we wish to say that we know of no line of work which has a wider field of opportunities than agriculture in the Southern States, and give it as our unanimous opinion, that the further the students advance in their work, they, almost without exception, become more interested and enthusiastic in it.

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It is a source of gratification to those who have advocated the teaching of agriculture in our colleges and schools for so long a time, to realize that their work has not been in vain. Within the last few years large and well equipped agricultural buildings have been built in almost every State at one or more of the State institutions of learning. This equipment does not go unused, for all the agricultural colleges are receiving large numbers of intelligent students from the farms. A number of States have passed laws requiring agriculture to be taught in the public schools, and some States have even established agricultural high schools in several of their counties. The establishment of these colleges and schools is having an elevating influence on the farming of the country in general, for every year they turn out a large number of boys and young men who return to the old farm to revolutionize the old system of farming by the application of improved methods.

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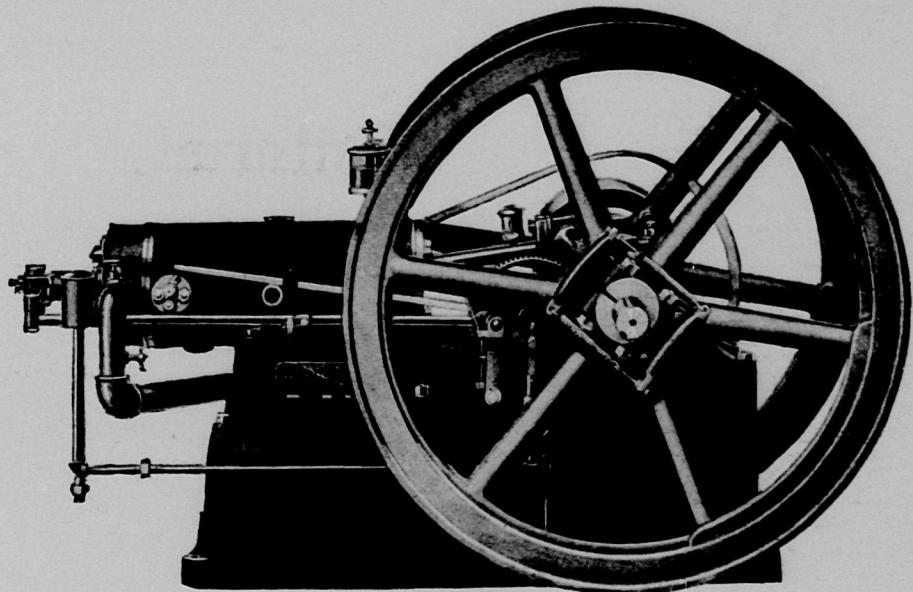
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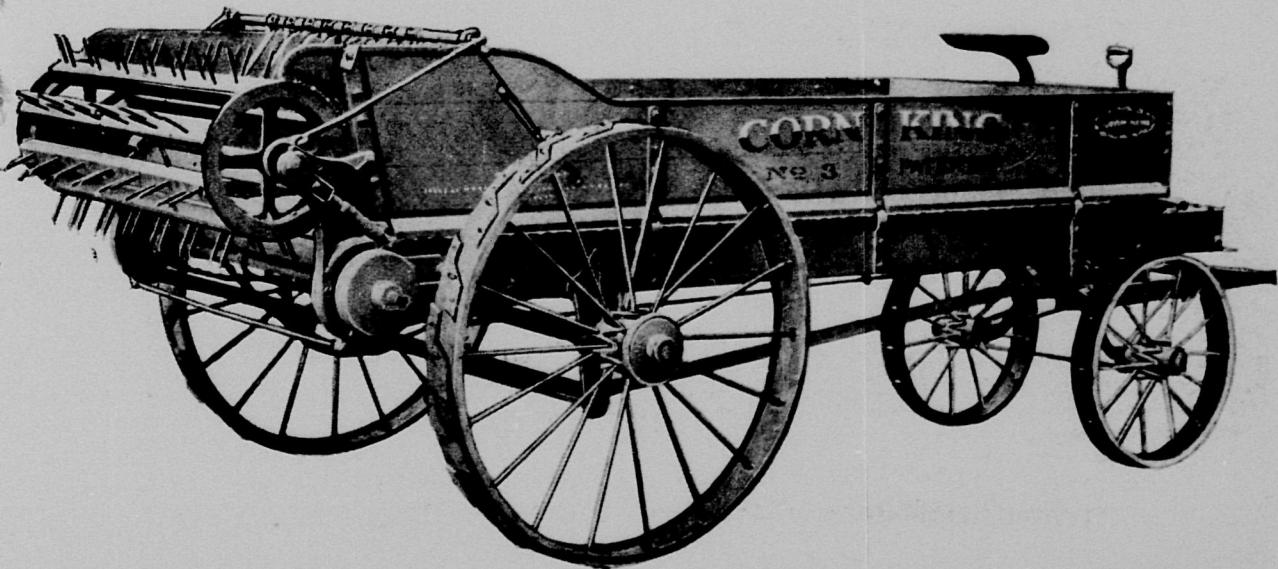
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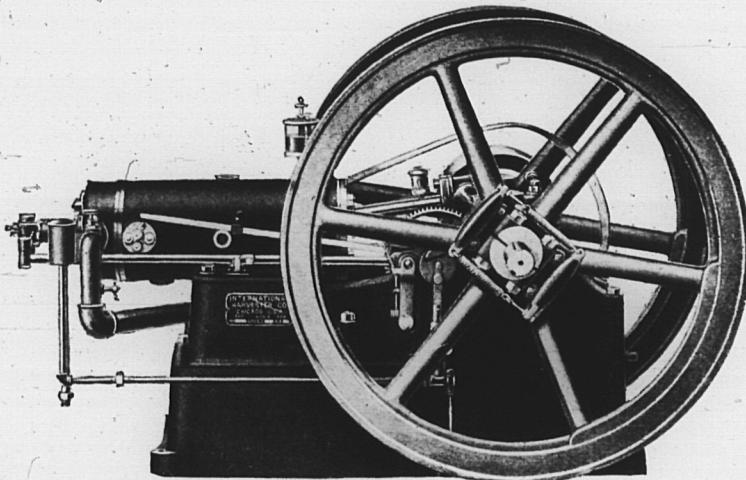
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BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.



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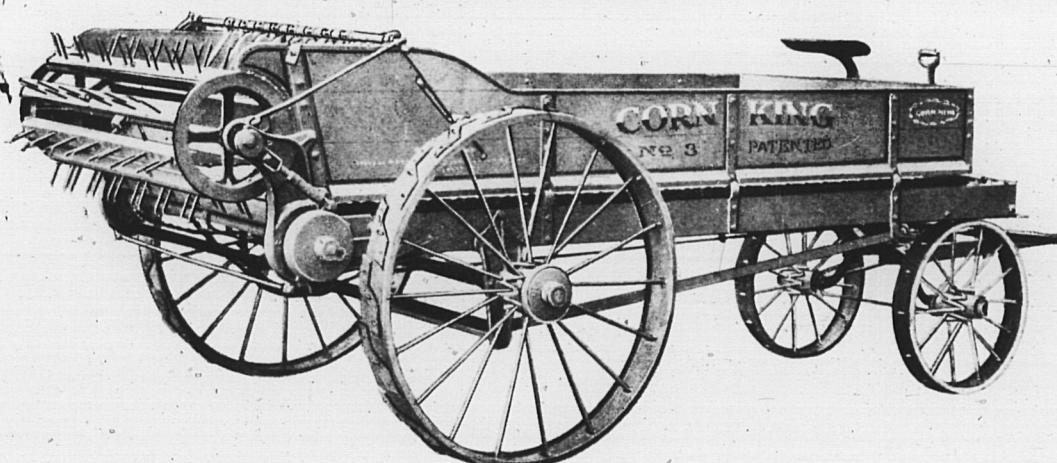
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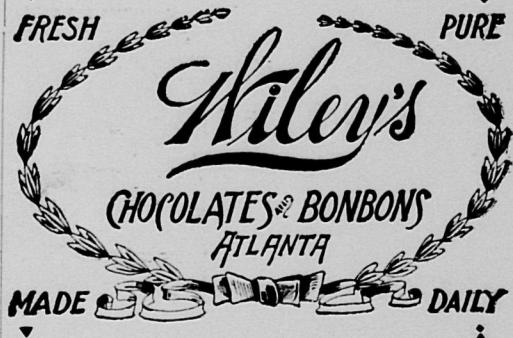


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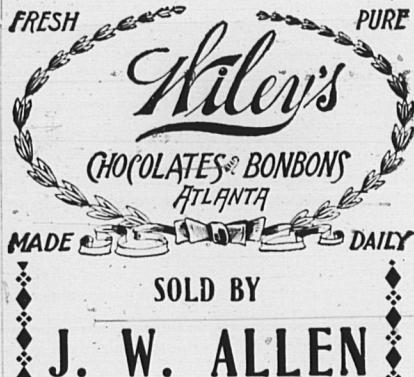
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Hardware, Tinware,  
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Caskets, Etc.

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BARBER SHOP

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**COURSES OF INSTRUCTION:** The courses of instruction include the Physical, Chemical and Natural Sciences, and with their applications; Agriculture, Mechanics, Astronomy, Mathematics, Civil and Electrical Engineering, Mining Engineering, Architecture, Drawing, English, French, German and Latin Languages, History, Political Economy, Mental Science, Physiology, Veterinary Science and Pharmacy. There are nine regular courses: (1) Civil; (2) Electrical; (3) Mechanical; (4) Architecture; (5) Mining Engineering; (6) Agriculture; (7) Chemistry; (8) Pharmacy; (9) Latin Science. (1) Course in Pharmacy Ph. G.; (2) Course in Veterinary Medicine, D. V. M.

**LABORATORY INSTRUCTION:** Laboratory instruction and practical work are given in the following departments: 1. Civil Engineering. 2. Electrical Engineering. 3. Telephone Engineering. 4. Mechanical Engineering. 5. Architecture. 6. Mining Engineering. 7. Mechanic Arts. 8. Technical Drawing. 9. Agriculture (Farm 304 acres, varied experiments). 10. Veterinary Science. 11. Horticulture. 12. Animal Industry, Five thoroughbred herds. Dairy. 13. Chemistry, Metallurgy, Assaying. 14. Pharmacy. 15. Physics. 16. Mineralogy. 17. Bacteriology. 18. Botany. 19. Biology. 20. Entomology.

**ATTENDANCE:** The attendance last year was 617, representing twelve States and two foreign countries; 66 counties of Alabama being represented.

**LOCATION:** The College is located in the town of Auburn, sixty miles east of Montgomery, on the line of the Western Railroad.

**BOARDING:** The College has no barracks or dormitories, and the students board with families of the town of Auburn, and thus enjoy all the protecting and beneficial influences of the family circle.

**EXPENSES:** There is no charge for tuition for residents of Alabama. Incidental fee per half session, \$2.50; Laundry Fee (first term) \$5.00; library fee per half session, \$1.00; surgeon's fee per half session, 2.50; laboratory fees in junior and senior years, \$5.00 per session; board per month \$12.00 to \$15.00. At houses rented by the College, board can be secured at \$9.50 per month. These fees payable on matriculation.

**CHAS. C. THACH, A. M., LL. D.,**

**President.**

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Cut always on  
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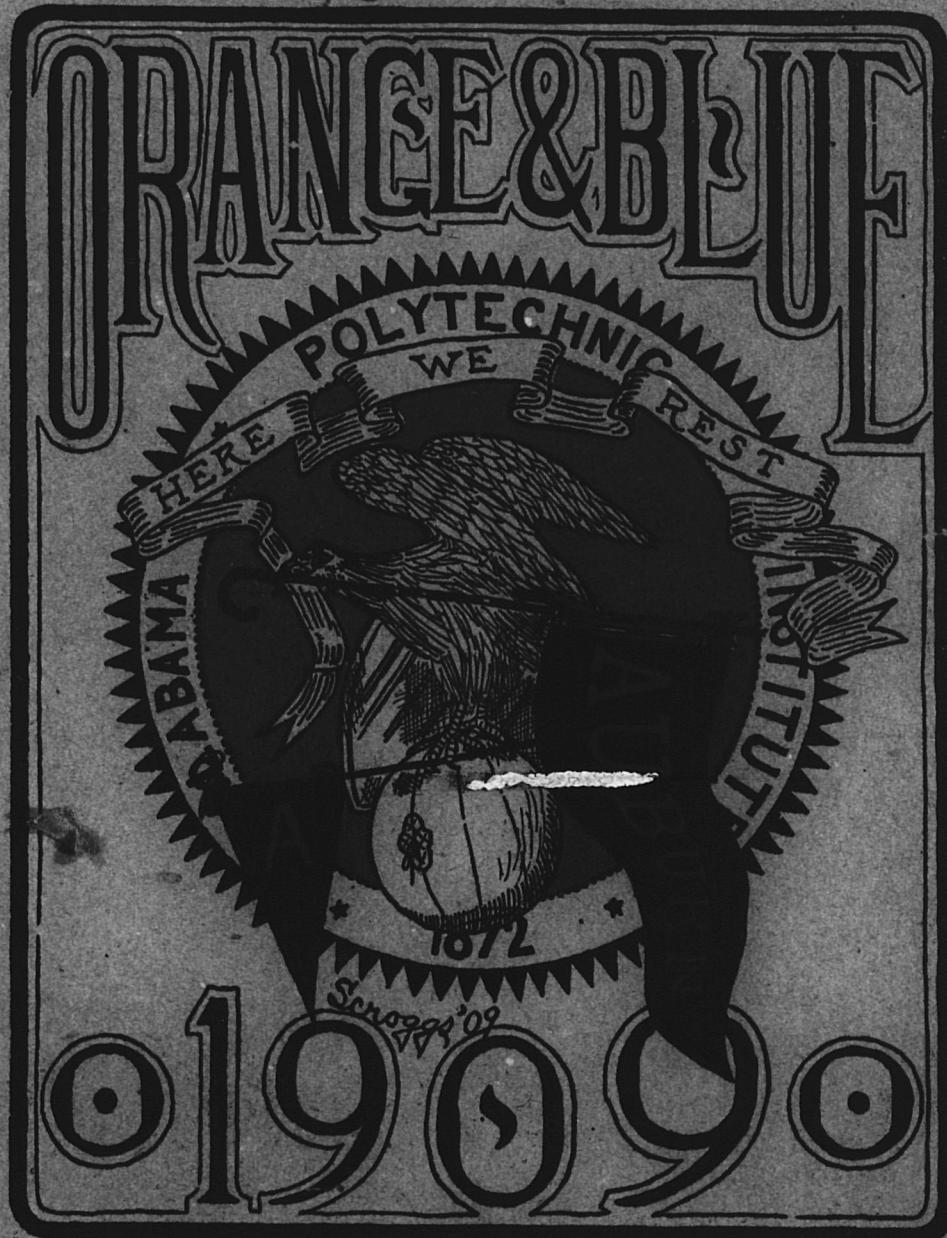
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Remember we are headquarters for Spalding's Athletic and Sporting Goods. Auburn pennants and souvenirs of all kinds. Can also have them made up any way you wish. The biggest and best line of Shoes, and Gents' Furnishings in sixty miles of here. Will be glad to show you through.

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